handed over towards the end of the official year to a local syndicate which is reported to be carrying on work in a satisfactory manner. But at Tirthahalli and elsewhere not much progress has been made owing to difficulties in procuring machinery and other causes.

Agricultural Banks.

41. As in the previous year there were 3 working banks, one each at Palhalli, Hongenahalli and at Nanjangud respectively but they have completely paid their dues to Government and have only a nominal existence. The collection of the loans due to Government by the several defunct banks is being attended to by the Revenue Department. A sum of Rs. 5,686 was collected towards principal and Rs. 2,012 towards interest during the year. There is still a balance of Rs. 45,868 outstanding against 13 banks.

5.—TECHNICAL DEPARTMENTS.

Public Works.

42. Among the more important irrigation works in progress may be mentioned the construction of new tanks at Mavatur in the Kankanhalli Taluk, Nidasala in the Kunigal Taluk, Harige in the Hunsur Taluk and Halsur anikat in the Heggaddevankote Taluk; as also the construction of a feeder from the Nagannana anikat to the tanks in the Tarikere valley in the Kadur District, the restoration of the Mellur, the Thagadur and the Manchipatna tanks in the Mysore District, the Bolappanahalli tank in the Bangalore District, the Thimmanaikanahalli tank in the Kolar District, the Bavanahalli tank in the Tumkur District and the improvement of the Sriramdevaru south channel in the Hassan District.

43. The block system of irrigation introduced in connection with the Marikanave Reservoir continued to work satisfactorily and its results in improving the health of the canal area are reported to be already perceptible. The lands available for irrigation have been sub-divided into small plots to suit the convenience of ordinary raiyats as well as of persons of enterprise and capital.

44. The channel works undertaken for resettling the raiyats drowned out by the Cauvery Reservoir are all nearly completed and water can now be supplied to about 6,300 acres commanded by the channels. Expropriated raiyats owning lands to the extent of about 2,500 acres were given lands in exchange under the new channels and 22 new village sites have been selected and

marked out to provide them accommodation. The expenditure on the channel works amounted to Rs. 6,28,660 during the year, the total outlay from the commencement being Rs. 10,91,273.

45. The principal civil buildings under construction during the year were the additions to the new Palace at Mysore, improvements to the north and south gates of the Fort, the General Hospital, the Chamrajendra Technical Institute and quarters for the members of the Representative Assembly, and guests and visitors, at Mysore, the extension of the Public Offices and the Public Works Workshop and Stores and the Technological Institute, at Bangalore, the new High School at Hassan and the new Taluk Cutcherries at Sidlaghatta and Chikmagalur. The construction of a girls' school at Bangalore, new police lines at the Nandidrug Mines on the Kolar Gold Field and the improvement of the Taluk Cutcherry at Nanjangud were some of the other works undertaken during the year.

46. The military buildings in progress during the year were the lines for the Local Service Regiment at Mysore and for the Barr Sepoys at Bangalore and Tumkur. A drainage project for the Imperial Service Lancers lines at Bangalore was also taken on hand.

47. Under communications, the widening of the bridle path from Kogaru to Hopparige in the Shimoga District and the improvement of the Chikmagalur-Tarikere road in the Kadur District were in progress; as also the construction of large bridges across the Bhrigu river on the Hunsur-Begur road in the Mysore District and across the Thungabhadra at Honnali in the Shimoga District. Three smaller bridges were also under construction on the Thirthahalli-Hulikal road in the Shimoga District.

48. Among miscellaneous public improvements may be mentioned the construction of roads and drains in the extensions, and the improvements to the Cubbon Park, in the Bangalore City, the roofing in of the water service reservoir on the Kolar Gold Field, the completion of Jewell Filter installation and the laying out of a high level service and other improvements to the water supply at Mysore, water supply installations for the towns of Nanjangud and Davangere and certain improvements to provide for the comfort and convenience of the pilgrims to the Ghati Subramanyaswami temple in the Dodballapur Taluk.

49. There was a steady increase in the number of power and lighting installations in the cities of Mysore and Bangalore and the Civil and Military Station. The number of power installations rose from 64 to 77 while that under lighting from 1,878 to 2,321, the total increase being 23 per cent. The channel conservancy operations which had to be carried on year after year, at a cost of nearly half a lakh of rupees since 1908 as an insurance against the short supply of water in the river during the summer months, were discontinued during the year, as the requisite flow for the power works at Sivasamudram was maintained with the help of the storage effected in the Cauvery Reservoir. *Electrical.*

The Bangalore tramways scheme continues to be in abeyance, as the prices of materials still rule high on account of the war.

50. *Construction.*—The total capital outlay during 1915-16 on construction was Rs. 19,79,983 as under:— *Railways.*

	Rs.
(1) Mysore-Arsikere Railway	14,14,837
(2) Tarikere-Narasimharajapura Tramway ...	31,126
(3) Bangalore-Chikballapur Light Railway...	1,32,742
(4) Kolar District Railways	2,90,464
(5) Suspense	1,10,814
Total ...	19,79,983

51. *Kolar District Railway.*—The gross earnings, working expenses and net earnings amounted to Rs. 61,466, Rs. 37,305 and Rs. 24,161, respectively, the percentage of net earnings on the capital outlay of Rs. 15,03,150 being 1·61.

Bangalore-Chikballapur Light Railway—The section between Yelahanka and Chikballapur has been opened for passenger traffic and the gross earnings, working expenses and net earnings amounted to Rs. 68,155, Rs. 39,336 and Rs. 28,819, respectively. The percentage of net earnings to capital outlay works out to 3·06. The estimates prepared by the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway Company for laying a third rail between Yelahanka and Yesvantpur and an independent alignment parallel to the existing metre gauge line between Yesvantpur and Bangalore City and for other connected works have been sanctioned and the Company have undertaken to complete the works expeditiously.

Feeder Railways in the Shimoga District.—The line surveyed last year for a 2 feet 6 inch gauge railway from

Shimoga to Arasalu has been improved and re-aligned for a metre gauge railway, as it is likely to form the first section of the projected Shimoga-Bhatkal railway on that gauge.

Thadasa-Hebbe Tramway.—The survey of a branch tram line from Thadasa, a station on the Tarikere Narasimharajapura tramway, to Hebbe, a distance of 12 miles, was completed and the project estimate is under preparation.

Mysore-Kakankote Tramway.—A survey for a tramway from Mysore to Kakankote forest has been started and will be completed before the end of December 1916.

Extension of the Tarikere-Narasimharajapura Tramway to Sringeri.—A reconnaissance survey for extending the Tarikere-Narasimharajapura tramway to Koppa and Sringeri was taken up during the year and the detailed survey will be started early in November next.

Geology and Mining.

52. One hundred mining leases and licenses were current during the year as against 142 in the previous year. Notwithstanding the war and the consequent difficulties with regard to staff, transport and supplies, the work on the Kolar Gold Fields has been more or less fully maintained and the output of gold has been kept up almost at its normal level. Manganese and chrome have suffered owing to high freights and transport difficulties but are now showing signs of recovery. Prospecting work and collection of corundum have been seriously interfered with owing to shortage of funds for such work and limitation of demand. In several cases Government have shown concessions in regard to the payment of rents, etc., where work has had to be suspended owing to causes arising out of the war.

The total number of mining accidents reported during the year 1915 was 282 as against 234 during the previous year. Of these accidents, 57 were fatal involving the death of 70 persons, 219 were serious and 6 were non-mining. The total number of explosive licenses granted during the year was 301 against 274 issued during 1914, an increase of 27 licenses. The rules for the storage and transport of explosives were revised during the year.

6.—MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS.

Muzrai.

53. Two events of religious significance which were out of the ordinary, took place during the year, namely, the